

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received AUG 29 1985
date entered SEP 26 1985

1. Name

historic

N/A

and/or common

Dupee Music Hall

2. Location

street & number

1402 P Street

NA not for publication

city, town

Franklin

NA vicinity of

state

Nebraska

code

031

county

Franklin

code

061

3. Classification

Category

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

Ownership

☒ public

☐ private

☐ both

Public Acquisition

NA in process

☐ being considered

Status

☒ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☐ work in progress

Accessible

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

Present Use

☐ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☒ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name

City of Franklin

street & number

N/A

city, town

Franklin

NA vicinity of

state

Nebraska

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds

street & number

Franklin County Courthouse

city, town

Franklin

state

Nebraska

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date On-going ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Nebraska State Historical Society

city, town

Lincoln

state

Nebraska

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dupee Music Hall is a rectangular two story frame structure built in 1902. Located on its original site in what is now the Franklin City Park, the building is a simple vernacular structure erected to serve as a home for the Franklin Academy Music Department. The hall which sets on a raised limestone foundation measures 9.58 meters by 13.84 meters and has a full frontal porch (2.45 meters by 9.58 meters). The structure has a low-pitched hipped roof.

The Dupee Music Hall is situated on its original site within the old Franklin Academy campus bounds in the city of Franklin, Nebraska (1980 population 1,167). The area is now a city park. This rectangular two story frame structure, built in 1902, sets on a raised limestone foundation which provides daylight windows throughout the full basement. The music hall measures 9.58 meters by 13.84 meters and has a full frontal porch (2.45 meters by 9.58 meters). Simple classical hoods top the window and door openings of this vernacular structure. The hall has a low-pitched hipped roof.

The basic floor plan consists of six over six rooms plus the open stairwell which is located on the south side of the structure about midway down the central hallway. Both floors as well as the basement have central halls which run east and west across the building.

The first floor of the music hall originally had three lesson rooms which could be opened up and combined to make one large recital space. There were also two practice rooms and a reception area/office located at the foot of the open staircase. Tongue and groove wainscoting line the walls in every room on first floor and along the hallways on first and second floors. The interior space of the lower floor has been altered to some extent, but the changes are reversible and the basic architectural integrity has not been compromised. This building has served as home to the city park caretaker for many years, therefore, a kitchen and bathroom were installed in two of the rooms and the open stairway has been surrounded with wallboard to save energy. Six practice rooms were located on second floor. These spaces are in original condition and are now used for storage. The basement contains the furnace room, two early 20th century bathrooms installed for city park patrons, (these are no longer used) and several storage rooms.

The Franklin County Historical Society as well as the City of Franklin, owners of the building, are interested in the future preservation of the structure. This local historical society, who operates a museum at the opposite end of the park is very interested in obtaining "guardianship" of the building and proposes to use the structure to house some of their collection. The Society also wants to insure the physical preservation of the Music Hall. Details of this mutual arrangement will be finalized at a future date.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1902 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 1902 Dupee Music Hall is significant in the area of education as the only extant structure on the Franklin Academy campus, a now defunct school sponsored by the Congregational Church. The building has social significance for the role it played in the social life of the community. The music hall served the Franklin's social needs by providing concerts, recitals and plays for area residents.

By 1888, Nebraska had five Congregational academies in the state offering college preparatory courses to students who desired more academic training than a typical 19th century high school provided.

The sponsorship of these academies were a part of a mission outreach program within the Congregational Church. Of these five: Crete/Doane Academy, Crete; Franklin Academy, Franklin; Gates Academy, Neligh; Weeping Water Academy, Weeping Water; Chadron Academy, Chadron, only the Crete/Doane Academy which merged with Doane College is still operating as a Congregational Church affiliate school. Doane offers a four year liberal arts program. The State of Nebraska purchased Chadron Academy which is now known as Chadron State College. The other three academies are defunct.

During Nebraska's early settlement period, few if any local high schools offered a college preparatory curriculum. For example, until 1881, when Franklin and Gates academies opened, Doane College had to train entering freshmen in its preparatory department before the students would be ready for college-level courses.

Academies provided a necessary service until the early 20th century when they began losing popularity. The decline in enrollment was due to the increased number of accredited high schools throughout Nebraska.

Franklin Academy was called the "mother" of the Congregational academies west of the Missouri River. It was the first to be established, located the farthest west of any other such institution, and the last to close. This academy commenced operations in 1881 under the auspices of the Republican Valley Association of Congregational Churches. An Illinois minister, Reverend C. S. Harrison was visiting the Franklin area in 1881 and decided that the location in south central Nebraska would be ideal for an academy. Harrison believed in mixing religion with education to insure righteous living. Also, an institution dedicated to teaching college prep courses was lacking in this area. At this time, the tiny town of Franklin had only seven houses and most importantly no saloons. Reverend Harrison laid the groundwork for the academy and returned to Illinois, however, three years later, in 1884, he was called to serve the Congregational Church in Franklin as pastor. When Harrison returned to Franklin he found the fledgling academy in serious financial trouble. The school had opened in December 1881 with 70 enrolled for the first term. The

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Franklin, Nebr.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	4
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5	0	3
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9	4	0
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4	4	3	8
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6	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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E

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G

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state NA code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet Jeffries Spencer, Cultural Historian

organization Nebraska State Historical Society date July, 1985

street & number 1500 R Street telephone 402/471-4767

city or town Lincoln state Nebraska

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Director, Nebraska State Historical Society

date 8-8-85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-26-85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

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campus consisted of one frame building situated on 15 barren acres. Harrison started a fund-raising campaign for the erection of more buildings and began landscaping the grounds.

Expanded courses in the late 1890's provided students the opportunity to take one year of college level instruction. The academy was accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This Franklin school actually required 144 more hours for graduation than did the North Central Association. Along with regular academic courses, the academy promoted regular Chapel visits and Bible study. Athletics and military tactics classes were also offered.

The Academy closed in June 1922 after serving 2,570 students in its 41 year history. The largest enrollment for any one term was 180.

Dupee Music Hall, the subject of this nomination, is the last surviving structure of the Franklin Academy. It was built in 1902 to house the music department which had become one of the major interests of the school. The music hall is significant in the area of education as the only extant building on the Franklin academy campus. This school was well known for its academic excellence and high percentage of successful graduates. The building has social significance for the role the academy played in the social life of Franklin townspeople. The academy was very important to the community and the Music Hall especially served the social needs of the people through the concerts, recitals, plays and lectures held there. Dupee Music Hall is an imposing landmark in the city park which provides a setting similar to its original rural campus environment.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography Item number 9 Page 2

Franklin Academy Catalogs, 1881-1906

"Franklin Academy Mirror" September 1883-June 1901.

Perry, Thomas D., et al, History of Doane College 1872-1912, Crete, Doane College Publisher, 1957.

Story of Franklin Academy, Executive Committee, Lincoln, Jacob North and Co., 1894.

"Sunday Journal and Star", Focus section, Lincoln, Nebraska, December 23, 1973.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Continuation sheet

Item number

10

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This property is described as an independent artifact with boundaries described by an imaginary line located $62\frac{1}{2}$ feet from each wall of the building located in Block 4, Buck and Greenwood's Addition to the town of Franklin excluding any adjacent real estate which originally served as the Franklin Academy campus; but which no longer retains its historical and physical integrity. This distance of $62\frac{1}{2}$ feet was chosen as this is the distance from the south wall of the building to P Street, the street which borders the park on the south. This $62\frac{1}{2}$ foot green space provides an appropriate historic setting for the structure.